

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Favorable examination in light of the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is imposing a Restriction/Election Requirement on the claims, categorizing the claims as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-21, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a caspase inhibitor and/or a compound of the formula R-Lys-X other than a hemocompatibly coated medical product.

Group II: Claims 22-30, drawn to a hemocompatibly coated medical product, coated with a caspase inhibitor and/or a compound of the formula R-Lys-X and a method of making the product.

Applicant elects Group II (hemocompatibly coated medical products) for examination. Claims 22-30 read on elected Group II.

The Examiner is also imposing a Restriction/Election Requirement on the claims, requiring the choice of a caspase inhibitor from those of claim 2. Applicant elects with traverse the caspase inhibitor acetyl-Tyr-Val-Ala-Asp-chloromethyl-ketone (Ac-YVAD-CMK) for examination. Claims 22-27 and 29-30 read on the elected species Ac-YVAD-CMK.

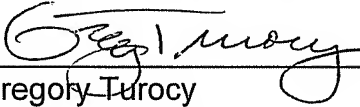
Finally, the Examiner is imposing a Restriction/Election Requirement on the claims, requiring the choice of a compound of formula R-Lys-X. Applicant elects with traverse Ac-His-Phe-Arg-Lys-Pro-Asp-CMK as the R-Lys-X formula for examination. Claims 22-30 read on the elected species Ac-His-Phe-Arg-Lys-Pro-Asp-CMK.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,

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